

Department of Fish and Game

Mission

To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.

Core Services

- Provide opportunities to utilize fish and wildlife resources.
- Ensure sustainability and harvestable surplus of fish and wildlife resources.
- Provide information on Alaska fish and wildlife resources to all customers.
- Involve the public in management of fish and wildlife resources.
- Protect the state's sovereignty to manage fish and wildlife resources.
- Protect important fish and wildlife habitat during permit and project review.

End Result	Strategies to Achieve End Result
<p>A: Optimal public participation in fish and wildlife pursuits and optimal economic benefits from fish and wildlife resources.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Maintain total annual value of commercial harvests and mariculture production at over \$1 billion annually.</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> Over \$1.9 billion value of commercial harvests and mariculture production of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants - continuing a solid six year upward trend.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Increase sales of hunting and trapping licenses to the 3-year average.</p> <p><u>Status #2:</u> In the most recent year available (2008), 144,897 hunting and trapping licenses were sold, a 7.0% increase from 2007, above the 3-year running average (138,716).</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Sell 450,000 sport-fishing licenses and maintain 2.5 million angler days of recreational fishing effort annually.</p> <p><u>Status #3:</u> In 2008, 486,000 anglers purchased fishing licenses, which is 8% over the target of 450,000. Licensed and unlicensed (less than 16 years of age, permanent ID holders) anglers spent an estimated 2,311,000 days fishing, which is 8% under the target of 2,500,000.</p> <p><u>Target #4:</u> 100% of resource developers meet agency requirements for protection of fish, wildlife, and their habitats.</p> <p><u>Status #4:</u> In FY09, 99.7% of all developers were in compliance with issued Fish Habitat and Special Area permits, just short of the performance target.</p>	<p>A1: Ensure the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Achieve reproductive goals in 80% of monitored systems.</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> The annual percentage of salmon reproductive goals achieved in monitored systems is within 10% of the goal.</p> <p>A2: Sustain fisheries on stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based upon the control and regulation of harvests through responsive management systems.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Meet 80 percent of user group allocation objectives established by the Board of Fisheries by region, plus or minus ten percent.</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> In this difficult task, the Board of Fisheries user group allocation objectives continue to fall below the target. This strategy is functional because it demonstrates the inherent challenge of achieving allocation targets.</p> <p>A3: Maintain recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Maintain the number actively stocked (currently being stocked according to the stocking plan, but not necessarily on an annual basis) lakes with hatchery fish at a level equal to or greater than the 1999-2003 average.</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> There were 260 lakes actively stocked with hatchery fish in 2008, compared to the average of 296 lakes in 1999-2003, so the target was not met.</p>

	<p>A4: Collect scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase by 5% the collection of population, harvest, and other biological information on species of concern and/or key species about which little information exists.</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> In FY09, 19 key species projects were continued and 14 were initiated for a total of 33, exceeding the target.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Complete 90% of planned surveys on the population status and harvest of big game species, furbearers, migratory birds and marine mammals (not including any stopped by adverse weather conditions or nonavailability of suitable aircraft).</p> <p><u>Status #2:</u> During FY09, the Division of Wildlife Conservation completed 78% of planned wildlife surveys (174 of 223) in which weather or aircraft availability was not a factor, which is below the target of 90%.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Maintain the number of active research projects at 95% or more of the previous year's totals.</p> <p><u>Status #3:</u> The total number of FY09 projects conducted was slightly less than those conducted the prior year, but slightly above our 95% target.</p> <p>A5: Compile and analyze existing data; conduct research to gather information on the role of hunting and fishing by Alaskans for customary and traditional uses.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Conduct a minimum of five studies of customary and traditional uses of fish and wildlife and harvests in at least three of the six regions each year.</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> For 27 Alaska communities, FY 09 surveys obtained updated harvest information. Targets were exceeded in three of six regions, thus below the overall target.</p> <p>A6: Ensure state authority to manage fish, wildlife, and water on all lands within its boundaries, public rights to access on public waters, and other access rights except as specifically diminished by acts of Congress.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Annually participate in steps leading to adoption and implementation by federal, state, and municipal agencies of ten land management plans, regulations, ordinances, treaties, and policies in order to assure recognition of state authority, accurate state</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> In FY09, ADF&G participated in multiple steps involving ten federal land management plans, two state land plans, one municipal plan, one state refuge plan, nine federal access management plans, two treaty meetings, and three federal policies involving state authorities.</p>
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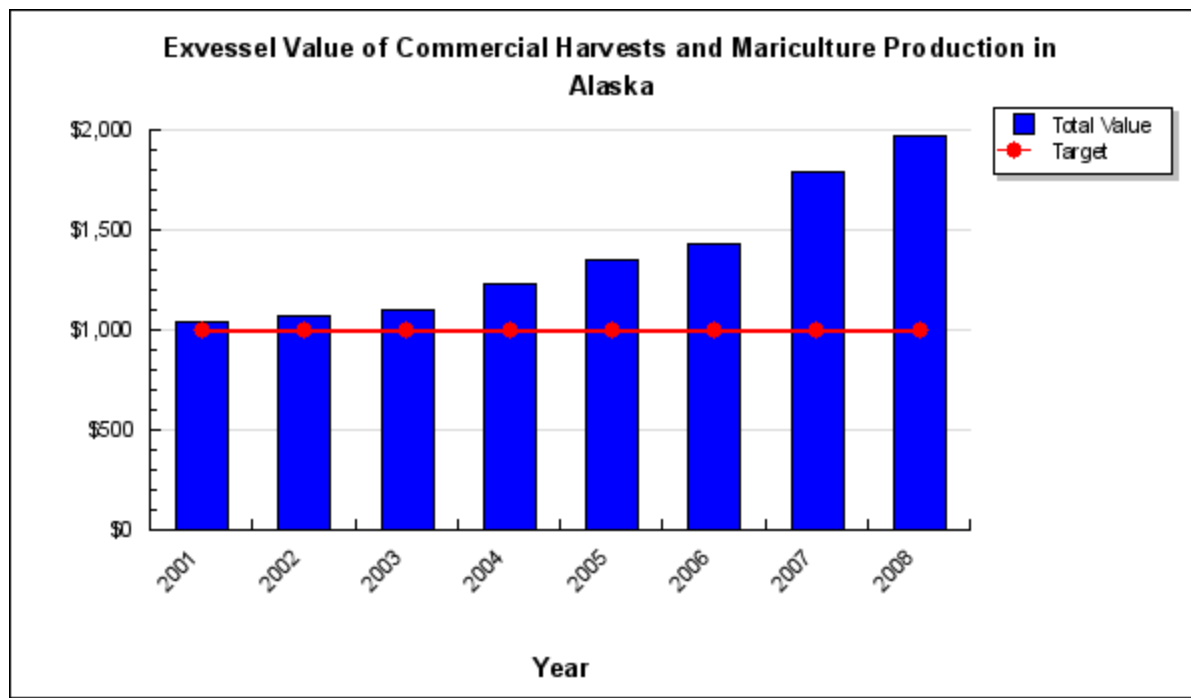
	<p><u>Target #2:</u> Annually monitor and provide staff support to five steps or items in national and state legislation in order to accurately reflect existing state authorities and public access and activities. <u>Status #2:</u> In FY09, ADF&G participated in five steps involving national legislation.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Annually coordinate with, and provide assistance to, Department of Law in issues involving possible litigation to protect the State sovereign authority and public activities. <u>Status #3:</u> In FY09, ADF&G supported Department of Law in addressing two existing, two new, and several potential lawsuits.</p> <p><u>Target #4:</u> Annually participate in ten federal decisions and three training sessions involving shared jurisdiction over fish and wildlife under Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, ANILCA, or Bald Eagle Protection Act. <u>Status #4:</u> In FY09, ADF&G participated in steps associated with five Endangered Species Act decisions, five ANILCA training sessions, one Migratory Bird regulations, and 15 federal subsistence decisions.</p>
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Performance Detail

A: Result - Optimal public participation in fish and wildlife pursuits and optimal economic benefits from fish and wildlife resources.

Target #1: Maintain total annual value of commercial harvests and mariculture production at over \$1 billion annually.

Status #1: Over \$1.9 billion value of commercial harvests and mariculture production of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants - continuing a solid six year upward trend.



Methodology: Exvessel values are calculated using a combination of aggregated price point per species derived from the Commercial Operators Annual Report, fish ticket databases and annual fishery harvest summary reports.

Exvessel Value of Commercial Harvests and Mariculture Production in Alaska

Year	Total Value	Target
2008	\$1,967	\$1,000
2007	\$1,789	\$1,000
2006	\$1,426	\$1,000
2005	\$1,353	\$1,000
2004	\$1,233	\$1,000
2003	\$1,100	\$1,000
2002	\$1,074	\$1,000
2001	\$1,040	\$1,000

Analysis of results and challenges: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) contributes to the success of the seafood industry through its scientific management of the various fisheries resources. Scientific management practices allow for the largest harvests that can be biologically sustained over time. ADF&G also plays a vital role by the adoption of regulations and fisheries management plans, in conjunction with the Alaska Board of Fisheries, fishermen, and processors, that provide orderly fisheries producing high quality products in a cost effective manner for utilization by the seafood industry.

The 2008 commercial salmon harvest was among the top twenty largest commercial salmon harvests ever and drove both exvessel and wholesale values up for the sixth consecutive year. Consistently high harvests are providing abundant and stable supplies of raw materials needed by the salmon industry as it works to regain market position relative to farmed salmon. Salmon populations in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region are steadily recovering

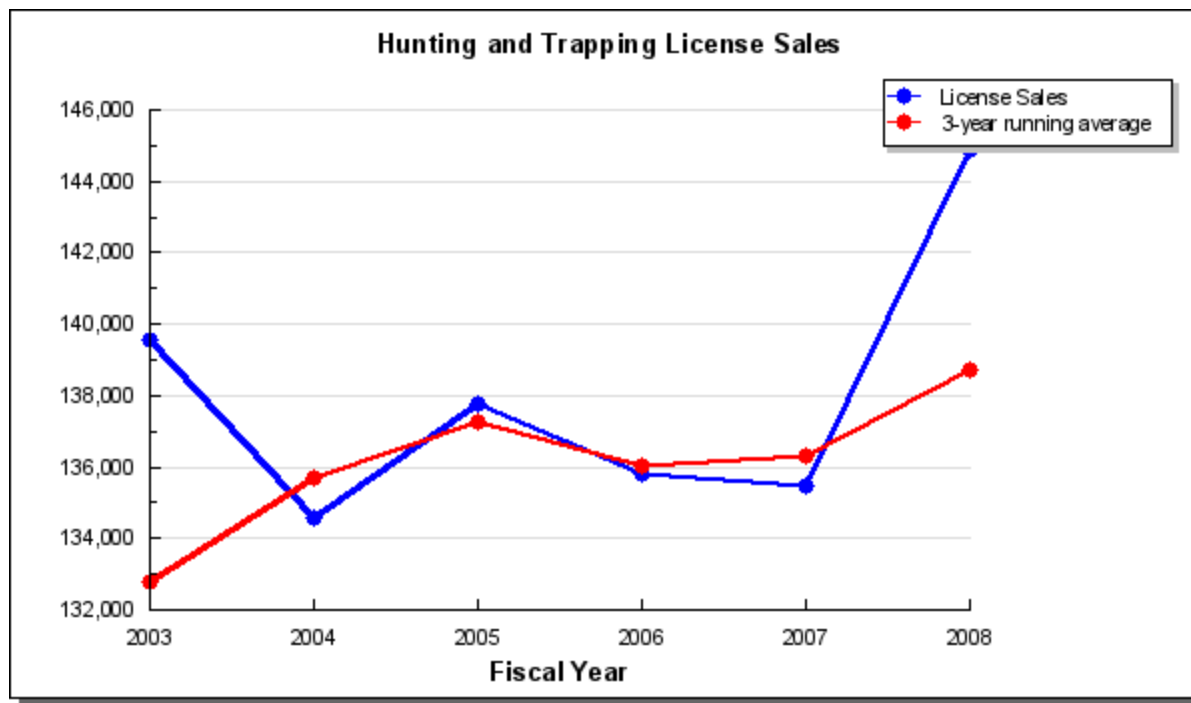
under the conservative management regime put in place by ADF&G.

Alaska's herring resources remain underutilized, because of limitations in market demand and low prices.

Pacific cod, pollock, and other groundfish species remain strong contributors to the value of Alaska's fisheries.

Target #2: Increase sales of hunting and trapping licenses to the 3-year average.

Status #2: In the most recent year available (2008), 144,897 hunting and trapping licenses were sold, a 7.0% increase from 2007, above the 3-year running average (138,716).



Methodology: Data is at <http://www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/admin/license/licstats.html>

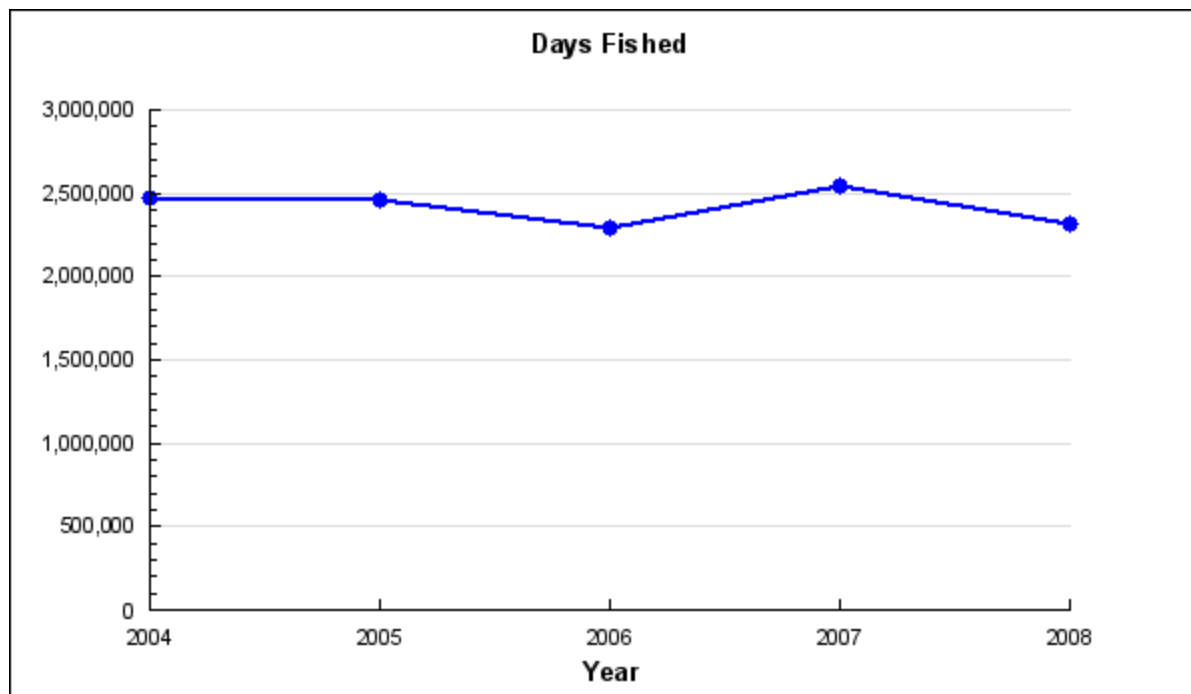
Hunting and Trapping License Sales

Fiscal Year	License Sales	3-year running average
FY 2008	144,897 +6.96%	138,716 +1.75%
FY 2007	135,470 -0.23%	136,333 +0.22%
FY 2006	135,782 -1.43%	136,030 -0.91%
FY 2005	137,747 +2.37%	137,283 +1.15%
FY 2004	134,562 -3.57%	135,718 +2.2%
FY 2003	139,539	132,791

Analysis of results and challenges: These totals include resident, nonresident and military hunting and trapping licenses. 2008 sales of hunting and trapping licenses were the highest since 2001. However, while the number of resident licenses increased (8.5%), sales of nonresident licenses decreased (-5.2%). Nonresident licenses bring in substantially more revenue, thus the net sales income was only 2.5% higher than in 2007. One incentive for hunters and trappers to buy licenses is confidence that game populations are abundant and that there are good opportunities to hunt and harvest game. The increased number of resident hunters may be a direct result of our Hunter Education program activities. Nonresident numbers likely reflect the state of the economy, as well as energy and airfare costs in 2008.

Target #3: Sell 450,000 sport-fishing licenses and maintain 2.5 million angler days of recreational fishing effort annually.

Status #3: In 2008, 486,000 anglers purchased fishing licenses, which is 8% over the target of 450,000. Licensed and unlicensed (less than 16 years of age, permanent ID holders) anglers spent an estimated 2,311,000 days fishing, which is 8% under the target of 2,500,000.



Methodology: Number of licenses sold was obtained from the Licensing section of the Division of Administrative Services, Department of Fish and Game. Estimates of days fished are derived from the sport fish statewide harvest survey, which is mailed annually to a random sample of resident and non-resident licensed anglers.

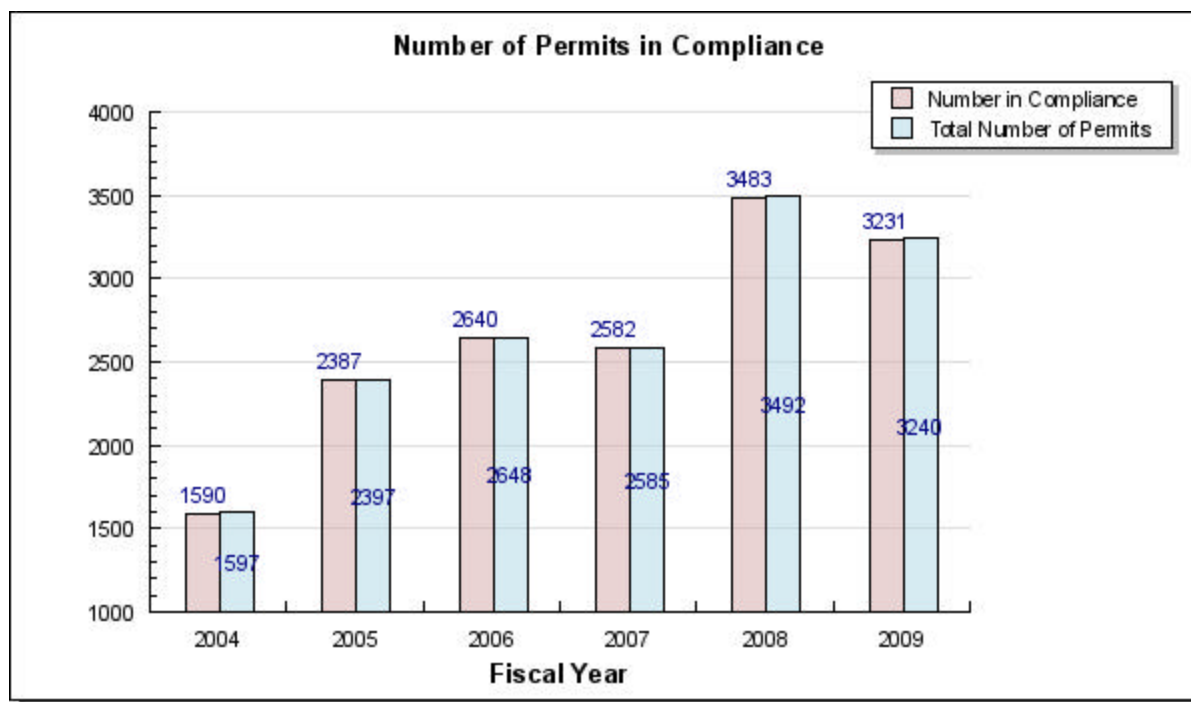
Days Fished

Year	YTD Total
2008	2,311,172 -9.15%
2007	2,544,058 +10.71%
2006	2,297,961 -6.74%
2005	2,463,929 -0.41%
2004	2,473,961

Analysis of results and challenges: The number of licenses sold has remained well above the target since 2004, ranging from 468,000 to 498,000. Despite a small decline in angler effort in 2008, there is little or no evidence of a declining trend. The five year (2004-2008) average is 2.42 million angler days, just 3% below the target.

Target #4: 100% of resource developers meet agency requirements for protection of fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

Status #4: In FY09, 99.7% of all developers were in compliance with issued Fish Habitat and Special Area permits, just short of the performance target.



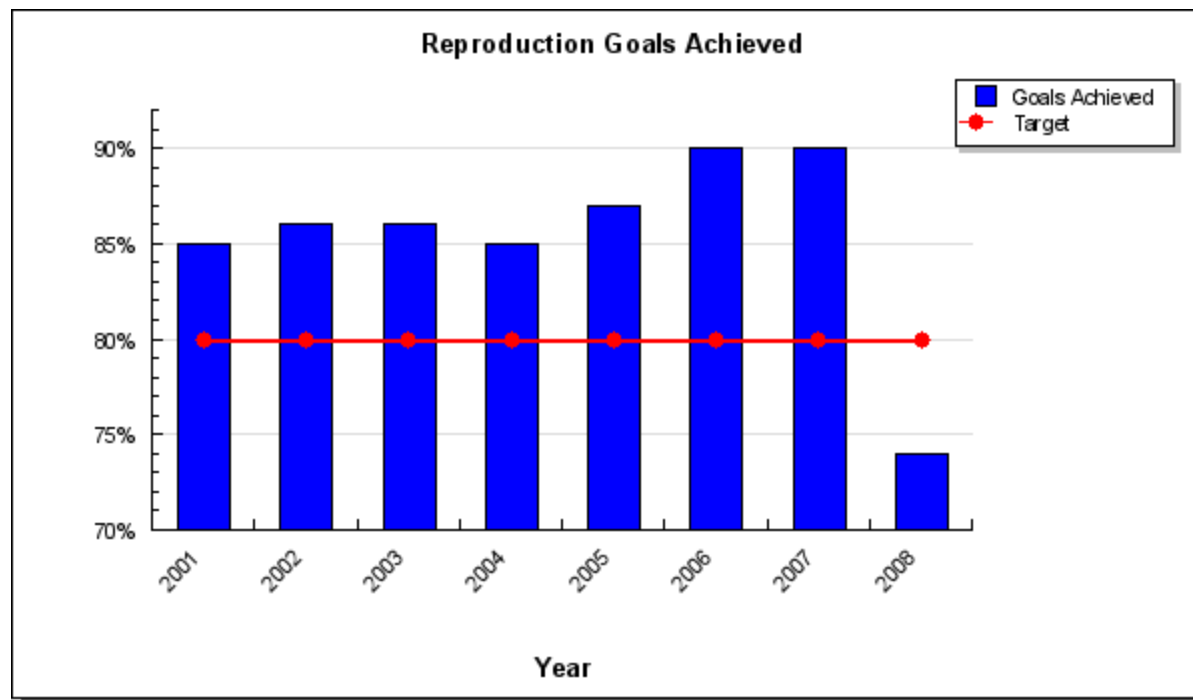
Methodology: Total numbers of permits in compliance compared to total number of permits.

Analysis of results and challenges: In FY09, 99.72% of all developers were in compliance with Fish Habitat and Special Area permits (Note: Habitat assumed responsibility for Special Area permits in FY09 and 176 applications were reviewed; prior years reflect Fish Habitat permits only). The above percentage reflects projects where permits have been successfully issued and the developer is in compliance with their approved permit conditions. This percentage is an indication of our success in protecting fish, wildlife, and their habitats, while allowing approvable development activities to proceed. Further, the number of permit applications has remained high, although they were down 8% from FY08, which was a very high year. Trend-wise, these data indicate that Habitat continues to consistently achieve a high level of habitat protection simultaneous with increased permit activity.

A1: Strategy - Ensure the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments.

Target #1: Achieve reproductive goals in 80% of monitored systems.

Status #1: The annual percentage of salmon reproductive goals achieved in monitored systems is within 10% of the goal.



Methodology: Regional tabulation of the monitored systems that are within or above the goal range.

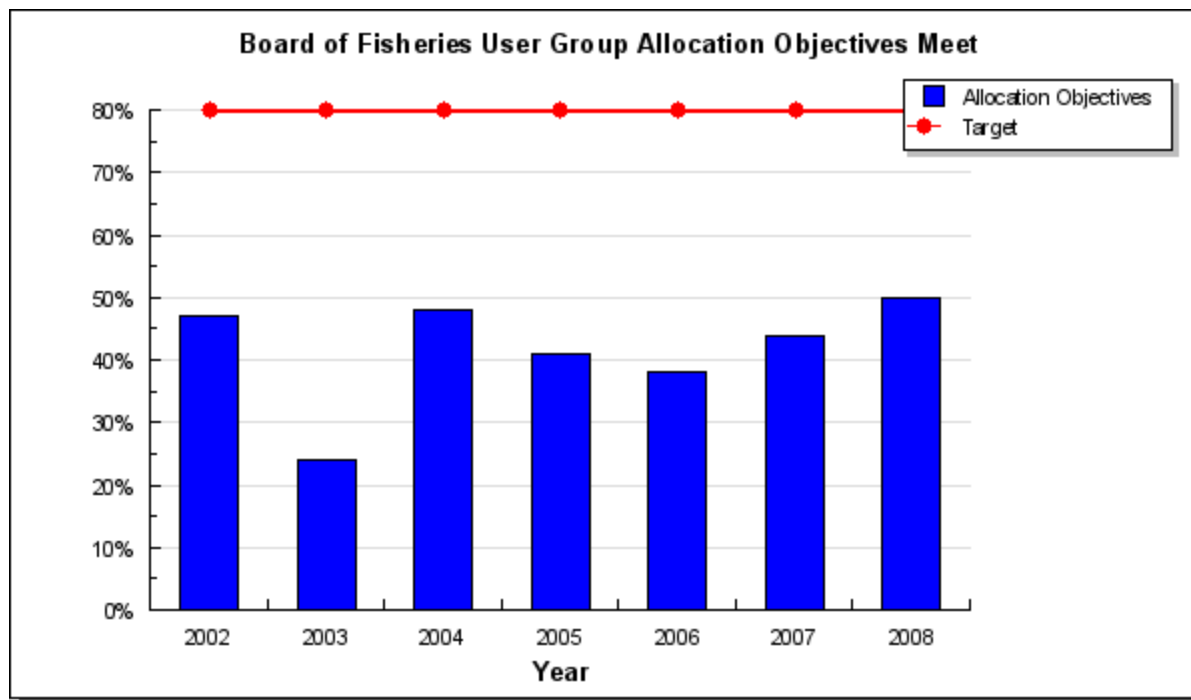
Analysis of results and challenges: Managing commercial, subsistence, and personal use harvests in ways that protect the reproductive potential of fish stocks is the most basic responsibility of the Division of Commercial Fisheries. The division's success in performing this function is the most direct indicator of program success, as well as the best indicator of continued healthy fish stocks. Success in achieving salmon escapement goals is probably the most common measure of success that salmon managers and research staff apply to their own performance.

The division annually deploys and operates numerous weirs, counting towers, and sonar sites to conduct escapement counts. Aerial and foot surveys are also used extensively in the absence of other means of counting escapement.

A2: Strategy - Sustain fisheries on stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based upon the control and regulation of harvests through responsive management systems.

Target #1: Meet 80 percent of user group allocation objectives established by the Board of Fisheries by region, plus or minus ten percent.

Status #1: In this difficult task, the Board of Fisheries user group allocation objectives continue to fall below the target. This strategy is functional because it demonstrates the inherent challenge of achieving allocation targets.



Methodology: Regional tabulation of fisheries actively managed that are within 10% of allocation goal.

Analysis of results and challenges: In particularly contentious fisheries allocation issues, the Alaska Board of Fisheries may make direct allocations of specific stocks to particular user groups. The division is then charged with managing commercial, subsistence, and personal use fisheries to achieve these targets. This is often one of the most challenging tasks that the division faces. Frequently, the division is faced with limited and fragmentary information and must make decisions on a daily basis to open or close fisheries. Despite these difficulties, the division generally comes relatively close to the allocation targets established.

The current measure requires a high precision for success, within ten percent above or below the target. The division achieves this measure of success with 50 percent of the fisheries subject to these allocations. However, in most instances where the actual harvest falls outside of the targeted range, the variance is relatively small; often only a few percentage points.

A3: Strategy - Maintain recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.

Target #1: Maintain the number actively stocked (currently being stocked according to the stocking plan, but not necessarily on an annual basis) lakes with hatchery fish at a level equal to or greater than the 1999-2003 average.

Status #1: There were 260 lakes actively stocked with hatchery fish in 2008, compared to the average of 296 lakes in 1999-2003, so the target was not met.

Actively-stocked Lakes

Year	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Total
Target	5.4 +440%	162.2 +15.86%	128 +7.56%	295.6 +13.69%
2008	1	140	119	260

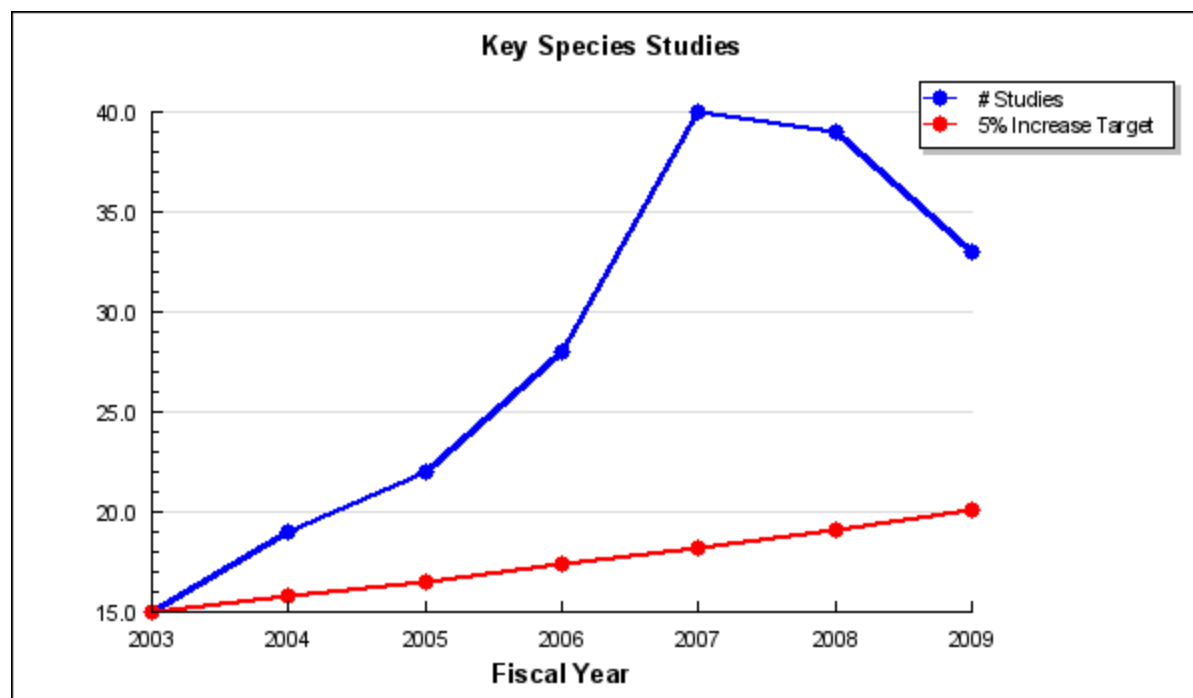
Methodology: Numbers of actively-stocked lakes are monitored by Sport Fish Division regional supervisors and staff. Target numbers are 1999-2003 averages.

Analysis of results and challenges: In 2009, there were one, 140, and 119 actively stocked lakes in Regions 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Loss of rearing capacity and disease concerns at state hatchery facilities resulted in lower production, thus not allowing the division to meet its stocking target. Completion of a new hatchery facility in Fairbanks in 2010 and construction of the Anchorage hatchery facility in 2011 will result in higher production of hatchery fish for stocking lakes.

A4: Strategy - Collect scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska.

Target #1: Increase by 5% the collection of population, harvest, and other biological information on species of concern and/or key species about which little information exists.

Status #1: In FY09, 19 key species projects were continued and 14 were initiated for a total of 33, exceeding the target.



Methodology: The numbers of active studies on key species are simply tallied for the state fiscal year. The target is a 5% increase in the number of studies per year. Some projects study several species or families of species, such as raptors, owls, bats, etc. so the number or projects is conservative. Source: DWC Federal Assistance Coordinator who receives all State Wildlife Grant proposals and performance reports.

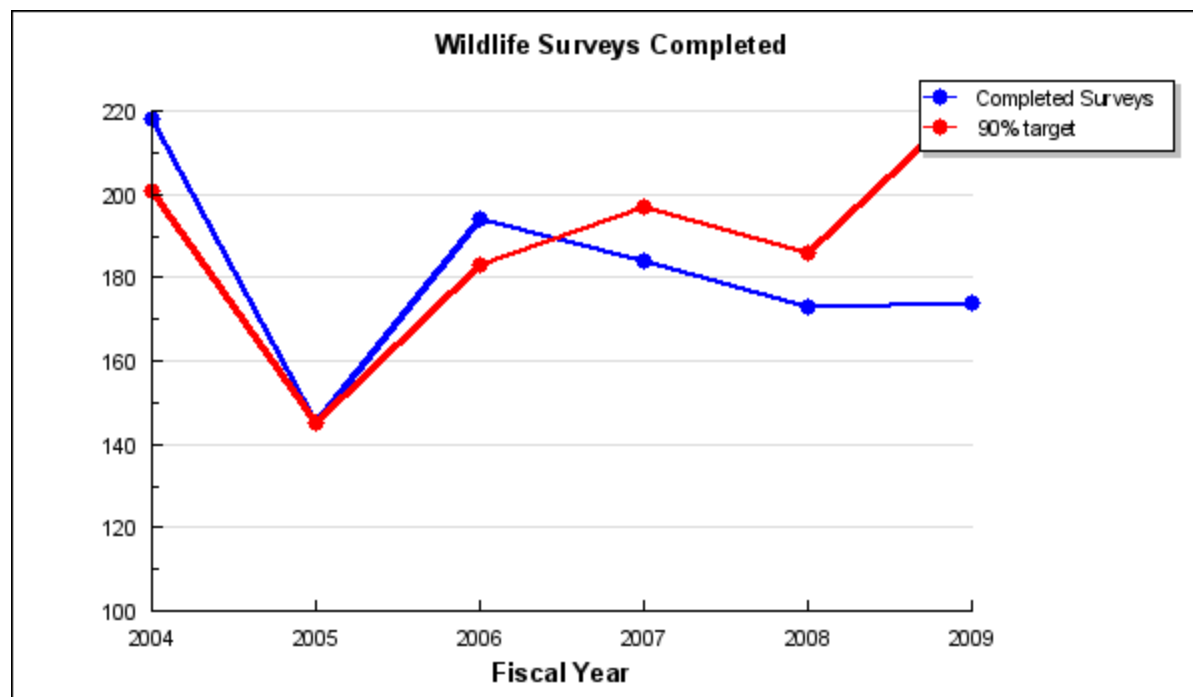
Key Species Studies

Fiscal Year	# Studies	5% Increase Target
FY 2009	33 -15.38%	20.1 +5.24%
FY 2008	39 -2.5%	19.1 +4.95%
FY 2007	40 +42.86%	18.2 +4.6%
FY 2006	28 +27.27%	17.4 +5.45%
FY 2005	22 +15.79%	16.5 +4.43%
FY 2004	19 +26.67%	15.8 +5.33%
FY 2003	15	15.0

Analysis of results and challenges: In FY09, 19 key species projects were continued and 14 were initiated for a total of 33. This represents a slight decrease over FY08, when 39 projects were ongoing. This decrease is partly due to the availability of federal State Wildlife Grant funds. However, several of the FY09 projects are for surveys of multiple key species. These projects include surveys of four ice seal species, North Bristol Bay seabirds, raptors in western and northwestern Alaska, and small mammals on state managed lands. Thus, the number of key species being studied is substantially greater than the number of projects.

Target #2: Complete 90% of planned surveys on the population status and harvest of big game species, furbearers, migratory birds and marine mammals (not including any stopped by adverse weather conditions or nonavailability of suitable aircraft).

Status #2: During FY09, the Division of Wildlife Conservation completed 78% of planned wildlife surveys (174 of 223) in which weather or aircraft availability was not a factor, which is below the target of 90%.



Methodology: Source: Division regional management coordinators and Federal Assistance project statements and performance reports. Proposed and completed surveys are tallied; 90% of the total proposed is the target.

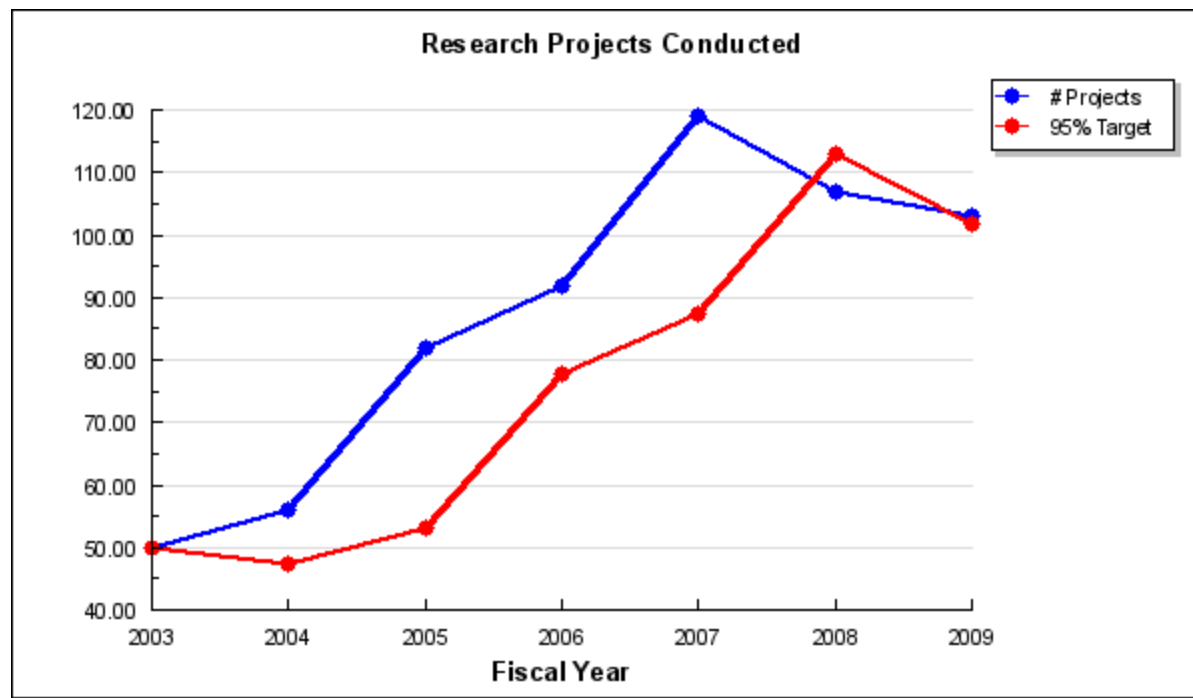
Wildlife Surveys Completed

Fiscal Year	Completed Surveys	90% target
FY 2009	174 +0.58%	223 +19.89%
FY 2008	173 -5.98%	186 -5.58%
FY 2007	184 -5.15%	197 +7.65%
FY 2006	194 +33.79%	183 +26.21%
FY 2005	145 -33.49%	145 -27.86%
FY 2004	218	201

Analysis of results and challenges: Analysis of results and challenges: In FY09 DWC set a higher target to complete more wildlife surveys than in FY08, but the number completed was about the same in each year. A number of planned surveys (not included in the 223 count) were cancelled because of survey conditions, such as adverse weather or lack of snow on the ground. Budget constraints and/or staff limitations were the main reasons why DWC failed to complete planned surveys. Regions must prioritize which management units and species are highest priority to the extent that personnel are available to conduct surveys. Also, cost increases, both for personnel and for aviation fuel, have increased the costs of charter flights and operating department aircraft.

Target #3: Maintain the number of active research projects at 95% or more of the previous year's totals.

Status #3: The total number of FY09 projects conducted was slightly less than those conducted the prior year, but slightly above our 95% target.



Methodology: Source: Federal Assistance (WR, SWG and ESA-sec. 6) performance reports and research management coordinators that provide information on non-Federal Assistance projects. Studies during the FY are tallied. 95% target is based on the previous FY number of studies.

Game studies: http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=management.research_projects

Nongame studies: http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=pubs.fa_research

Research Projects Conducted

Fiscal Year	# Projects	95% Target
FY 2009	103 -3.74%	101.65 -10.08%
FY 2008	107 -10.08%	113.05 +29.35%
FY 2007	119 +29.35%	87.4 +12.2%
FY 2006	92 +12.2%	77.9 +46.43%
FY 2005	82 +46.43%	53.2 +12%
FY 2004	56 +12%	47.5 -5%
FY 2003	50	50

Analysis of results and challenges: During FY09, 49 big game research projects, 17 marine mammal program research projects, two waterfowl/game bird, and 24 nongame research projects were conducted, for a total of 92 division research projects. 11 additional nongame research projects were conducted by partners with the division using State Wildlife Grant (SWG) funds. In the previous year (FY08), DWC conducted 42 big game research projects, 21 marine mammal program research projects, two waterfowl/game bird, and 27 nongame research projects for a total of 92 division research projects, and collaborated on 15 additional nongame partner projects. The total number of FY09 projects conducted has not increased over prior years, as a result of 3:1 SWG match projects terminating and new 1:1 match requirements making it more difficult to initiate projects. Additionally, federal funding for four marine mammal projects ended.

A5: Strategy - Compile and analyze existing data; conduct research to gather information on the role of hunting and fishing by Alaskans for customary and traditional uses.

Target #1: Conduct a minimum of five studies of customary and traditional uses of fish and wildlife and harvests in at least three of the six regions each year.

Status #1: For 27 Alaska communities, FY 09 surveys obtained updated harvest information. Targets were exceeded in three of six regions, thus below the overall target.

Division of Subsistence Community Survey Projects, by Region, 2005-2009

Fiscal Year	Southeast	Southcentral	Southwest	Interior	Western, Arctic	Total
FY 2009	1 0%	0 -100%	10 +42.86%	7 +600%	9 -25%	27 +28.57%
FY 2008	0 -100%	1 -66.67%	7 0%	1 -87.5%	12 +20%	21 -32.26%
FY 2007	3 0%	3 -40%	7 +40%	8 -11.11%	10 -37.5%	31 -18.42%
FY 2006	3 0%	5 0%	5 -28.57%	9 0%	16 +14.29%	38 +26.67%
FY 2005	0	0	7	9	14	30

Methodology: Comprehensive community surveys, by region, conducted each year by the division.

Analysis of results and challenges: The division conducts field studies and gathers harvest survey information in communities almost entirely with special project funding. The funding is generally obtained through a competitive proposal process to address questions related to customary and traditional uses of specific fisheries and wildlife resources. Systematic regionwide surveys can occur only when relatively larger funding support is available, a rare occurrence in the past ten years. The data table shows information has been incomplete for several regions over a five-year period, with improvement in fiscal years 2006 and 2007. The target is to have scientific information collected and analyzed in each region at a consistent level each year; and develop a balance across regions, recognizing geographic differences. The target was achieved in each of the past five fiscal years.

A6: Strategy - Ensure state authority to manage fish, wildlife, and water on all lands within its boundaries, public rights to access on public waters, and other access rights except as specifically diminished by acts of Congress.

Target #1: Annually participate in steps leading to adoption and implementation by federal, state, and municipal agencies of ten land management plans, regulations, ordinances, treaties, and policies in order to assure recognition of state authority, accurate state

Status #1: In FY09, ADF&G participated in multiple steps involving ten federal land management plans, two state land plans, one municipal plan, one state refuge plan, nine federal access management plans, two treaty meetings, and three federal policies involving state authorities.

Target #2: Annually monitor and provide staff support to five steps or items in national and state legislation in order to accurately reflect existing state authorities and public access and activities.

Status #2: In FY09, ADF&G participated in five steps involving national legislation.

Target #3: Annually coordinate with, and provide assistance to, Department of Law in issues involving possible litigation to protect the State sovereign authority and public activities.

Status #3: In FY09, ADF&G supported Department of Law in addressing two existing, two new, and several potential lawsuits.

Target #4: Annually participate in ten federal decisions and three training sessions involving shared jurisdiction over fish and wildlife under Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, ANILCA, or Bald Eagle Protection Act.

Status #4: In FY09, ADF&G participated in steps associated with five Endangered Species Act decisions, five ANILCA training sessions, one Migratory Bird regulations, and 15 federal subsistence decisions.